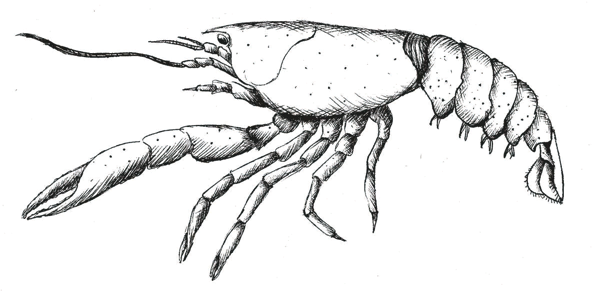
**STREAM HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

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Circle the choice that describes your observation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stream Ecosystem Features** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| **Riparian Buffer Zone -** Trees and plants along the stream bank offer wildlife habitat and shade, prevent erosion, and provide leaves to start the stream food chain. | Many trees and shrubs | Few trees/ shrubs | Bare soil/  grass only |
| **Shade -** Provides cooler water temperatures in summer and allows temperature sensitive organisms to survive. For example, brook trout live in water less than 68ºF. | Completely shaded  Temperature of this stream is \_\_\_\_\_ºF | Some shade | No shade |
| **Stream Bank Erosion -** Bare soil will wash into the stream when it rains and smother the organisms on the bottom. It also allows runoff of pollutants that harm stream aquatic life. | Little bare soil,  no erosion | More bare soil,  some erosion | Lots of bare soil,  erosion |
| **Turbidity -** Aquatic organisms need clear water to live. Erosion carries soil into the water and makes it cloudy. | Clear | Cloudy | Very cloudy |
| **Litter -** Garbage looks bad and harms wildlife. | No litter |  | A lot of litter |
| **Stream bottom -** Small rocks provide the best habitat for macroinvertebrates that eat the dead leaves that start the food chain. | Cobbles  (small rocks) | Mixed: large and small rocks, some sand | Sand and silt only |
| **Riffles (bubbles) -** Allow mixing of air into the water and increase oxygen available to stream organisms. | Many | Few | None |
| **Flow -** A healthy stream has areas of slow moving water pools and also fast water and riffles. This provides habitat for a variety of stream life. | Fast and slow |  | Single speed |

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**STREAM HEALTH ASSESSMENT** page 2

Name two animals that might use the stream:

1.

2.

Create a simple food chain for this stream ecosystem using a minimum of three species:

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is eaten by 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is eaten by 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

List two positive observations in terms of stream health:

1.

2.

List two stream health observations that need improvement:

1.

2.

Write a summary statement for your assessment of the health of this stream:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_